organize the resources of the planet, and his purely technical ability to do so, are expressed, but his psychological and moral abilities in this direction are not even discussed. Nor is enough emphasis given to the fresh problems which will be raised by the solutions of technical problems themselves, for instance :

1. The phase of rapid population growth in backward continents which, stimulated by improved agriculture and disease control, will outstrip the expanding food production ;
2. The reversed colonial problems which may well arise between dark-skinned and light-skinned races during this period of population imbalance ;
3. The problems of differential group loyalties between family, city, State, federation and world community, which have in the past always stopped short of the world community and have been expressed in terms of the largest recognized loyalty group reinforced by the necessity for cohesion in the group to ensure security in conflict with the outside world ;
4. The apparently more domestic problems of the integration of the new means of communication—telephone, wireless, television, into a functioning society ;
5. The proper relative functions of men and machines ;
6. The over-riding problem of the control of the modern forms of physical power.

And although it is true that man's lot can be much bettered by the application of existing knowledge, it is by no means certain that " provided that man applies himself to peaceful ends during the rest of the twentieth century he can reasonably look forward to a well-fed world at the end of it." It is still possible that on a world scale Malthus will come into his own, at least for a time.

Comparatively little attention is given to the extremely high level of sexual activity shown by man compared with other animals, and the relationship between the sexes is hardly discussed except in the feminist terms of the emancipation of woman in our own culture during the past few decades. In the brief reference which is made to the work of Margaret Mead on this subject it would be valuable to point the reader towards her remarkable studies, thus carrying into the field of sex relationships the idea of the extreme cultural plasticity of human material which is otherwise so well emphasized throughout this work ; but instead, on p. 141, her evidence on this very point is quite illogically attacked :

> Of three tribal groups . . . one, the Tchambuli, shows a relationship between the sexes the exact opposite of what we accept as usual. . . . It is however easy to attach too much importance to these observations. After all inversions are rare. If they can occur, we may ask, is it not significant that there are very few instances ?

The point is here missed. The well-authenticated existence of even a single case such as this proves conclusively that such differences are the subject of cultural control and are not absolute characteristics.

This is a good book and can be much improved, probably at the expense of a slight expansion, in later editions ; with a few shifts of emphasis, a greater economy of anecdote and topical reference, some cross-referencing, and with more specific references from the text itself to fuller introductory works to the subjects of each section, this volume could become the standard popular introductory biology of man which it aspires to be.

DAVID LAWSON.

POPULATION

The Royal Commission on Population. Papers. Vol. III. *Report of the Economics Committee.* London, 1950. H.M.S.O. Pp. 64. Price 1s. 6d.

THE object of the appointment of the Committee was generally to advise the Commission on the economic aspects of the inquiry. The Committee report that their main task was the preparation of a report on the Economic Consequences of the Trend of Population. The chairman of the Committee, Sir Hubert Henderson, was also the chairman

of the Commission. They were particularly concerned with the question whether " difficulties of marketing would make the maintenance of a high rate of exports from this country a task of extreme difficulty in the long-run future." A covering letter from the Committee emphasizes the fact that the report must be read as a document completed in 1945, that is, it does not take account of the economic difficulties experienced during the past five years, nor, presumably, does it take account of the unexpected character of the variations in population statistics during those years, nor the effect of the American loan.

The headings under which the investigations are reported are: " External Consequences " (including migration), " Internal Consequences," e.g. housing, etc., " Employment," and the " Standard of Life and National Welfare " ; these sections are followed by a " Summary of Conclusions." The discussions are, as might be expected, learned, interesting, and deserve study. It would be difficult to give a thorough idea of the varied contents of the report in the space of a short article, and in what follows attention will be chiefly directed to the questions of numbers, food and migration, though it must not be taken that these questions are, by any means, the only subjects dealt with. But all the matters discussed do interconnect and affect each other.

Very early in the report it is stated that: " The problem of increasing the food supply in proportion to the growth of population was solved for Great Britain not by agricultural improvement but by the development of international trade on an entirely new scale." And " It will be observed that the vital food requirements—especially of Great Britain, supplied the mainspring and motive force for the international development." And there follow a few paragraphs on the industrialization of agricultural countries and some important remarks on the impermanence of the factors. " The international economic expansion of the Victorian age must be regarded as a highly abnormal phase of world history." The exceptional benefit which we derived depended first, on the existence of large undeveloped territories abroad, and, secondly, on our flying start, and our few competitors. These conditions were bound to be short-lived ; the opening up of new territories must come to an end, and manufacturing initiative and progress could not permanently be confined to this country. The report, of course, deals also with our " invisible " assets of services abroad and overseas investments, so cruelly reduced by two world wars ; though victorious we took a disproportionate share of losses. It is the merest common sense to act on the supposition that the larger the population the more imports, especially of food, will be needed, and the more exports will be required to pay for the imports, and it may be noted that at the present time we import about 60 per cent of the food that we eat. " The balance of our food supplies must be obtained by imports ; and this balance must increase more than proportionately to any increase in numbers. Conversely it could be reduced more than proportionately to a decline of numbers."

The last quotation from the report is a good text for a disquisition on the pressure of our population. And closely connected with this is the important question of migration, on which the Committee has some interesting things to say. Large-scale migration was an essential feature of the Victorian expansion, but emigration from this country fell during the inter-war period and the desire to emigrate declined notably. The Committee think that this was largely the result of the fall in the birth-rate. They go on to say that for Britain at the present time " a large flow of emigration can hardly be regarded as either practicable or desirable." This is a general statement of uncertain value until we decide what is meant by " a large flow." They quote the case of France with its immigration problem ; but the circumstances of the two countries are so different that it may be thought doubtful if we have anything to learn from the comparison. But one important matter is stressed, and that is, if our numbers were to fall considerably there may well be some increase of immigration from Ireland, and that is a matter which should be carefully watched. We know, for

instance, that Scotland keeps its numbers steady at about 5 million by means of emigration. But we also know of the considerable influx of Southern Irish in Glasgow and elsewhere in Scotland.

But it would be a great mistake to consider this small difficulty, which can be overcome by obvious measures, as a reason for discouraging emigration to Commonwealth countries. There are indeed few matters of greater importance than a well-organized system of such emigration, important for ourselves and for the other countries of the Commonwealth. A relief to our population pressure and a gain to the other members of our great community. At present (1950) it looks as if some 80,000 emigrants would leave Britain for Australia during the year; but Australia would have liked 100,000.

There is a section of the report, seventeen pages long, on the " Internal Consequences " of the present population trend. This deals with housing, house investment, land values, and public finance. These subjects are, of course, of interest to all of us, but will not be dealt with in this notice. But attention may be drawn to a table which shows the probable increase in the total numbers of men over 65 and women over 60 during the next fifty years or so. The actual numbers will depend upon the future mortality-rates, but we may expect a large increase in the ratio of pensioners to contributors, and a continuance of high taxation. It looks as if it might eventually be necessary to encourage more active work on the part of oldish people and to raise somewhat the ages at which old-age pensions become payable. There is nothing sacred about the figures 60 and 65. They might equally well be 62 and 67.

There is a section of nine pages dealing with " Employment," with the subheadings " Normal," " Structural," " Cyclical " and " Persistent General Unemployment." The last-named is the most to be feared and avoided, and is described as attributable to prolonged insufficiency . . . in the aggregate demand for goods and services. Anyone who wishes to get a headache may be advised to read the paragraphs in the report which deal with the question of prolonged unemployment, and are chiefly concerned with the saving habits of the people, investment and reconstruction during the early post-war years. But as those early years are over, and we know what has happened in them, it would be more valuable if we were told of the effect of American aid and of its eventual cessation. There we have a problem in the not-distant future; something definite enough and difficult enough. But to go back to the generalities of the report, it is therein stated that "stationary or declining numbers are likely to prove an influence unfavourable to the maintenance of full employment," and a little later it is laid down that one of the objectives of policy should be to keep export trade steady " at a level that is adequate to bring us the external purchasing power needed to defray the cost of our imports." Well, we all of us know that, even the most " uneconomical " of us.

The section on "The Standard of Life and the National Welfare " is concerned with broad issues, and includes discussions on stationary versus increasing numbers, the prospect of declining numbers, and population policy. The Committee point out, what indeed we all know, that we have to pay for our imported food, that we may find it difficult to find enough exports for this, and that, " in future we may find it extremely important to develop our home production of food to the fullest extent." They make the important pronouncement that " for Great Britain to-day the balance of economic advantage is strongly in favour of more or less stationary as compared with increasing numbers." And then the possibility of declining numbers is discussed and the implications. But we must bear in mind that they had before them forecasts of an almost immediate decline which proved to be highly erroneous. Thus, one well-known calculation gave a predicted population of England and Wales in 1947 which proved to be about 3 million too small! We must keep this in mind if we wish to understand the mental atmosphere in which the report was written.

We must, in fact, remember that the report is out of date and that it was written at a

time when a considerable fall in our numbers was expected in the near future. We must note that no mention is made of American aid and its cessation in 1952. As to the advantages and disadvantages of a growing, a stationary, or a decreasing population, the report concludes " that for Great Britain to-day (1949) the balance of economic advantage is strongly in favour of stationary as compared with increasing numbers." But our numbers continued to increase.

Though somewhat ignored, the skeleton still remains in the cupboard. When American aid has gone, can we still import what we need to feed our huge population ? Throughout the report the Committee insufficiently stress the vital necessity of growing at home as much food as possible.

Towards the end of the report it almost looks as if the Committee had some hankering after a reduction in our numbers. Thus, in nearly the last paragraph, there is this statement : " While a smaller population would, as such, be on the whole advantageous, the *process* of decline would be difficult." Certainly, difficult but desirable !

We might put before ourselves the ideal of an eventual, stationary, life-table population for Britain somewhere about 40 million, with an expectation of life at birth of, say, 69 years, and a yearly number of births of about 600,000, and the same number of deaths. And we should then be a good deal happier than we are at present.

C. F. ARDEN-CLOSE.

Population Studies, March 1950. Supplement on the cultural assimilation of immigrants, by ten authors. Cambridge University Press. Pp. 1-118.

Breathes there a man, with soul so dead
Who never to himself hath said,
This is my own, my native land!
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd,
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd
From wandering on a foreign strand!
(SCOTT, " Lay of the Last Minstrel.")

THOSE who remain in foreign lands are discussed in the work under review. There is no suggestion that their souls are dead, though it seems likely that they often suffer from internal conflicts. It is generally accepted that nationhood is something vastly superior to parochialism or clannishness. Yet it is also often said that national prides and sovereignties are the chief obstacle to a decent organization of the world as a whole. Here is a collection of studies all relevant to the question " What makes a nation ? " and so, by extension, to the question " What might make a unified world ? "

In an introduction D. V. Glass thanks U.N.E.S.C.O. for having fostered the conference and the publication of its proceedings. He also emphasizes the need for scientific studies of immigrants, because their status is in danger of being decided by prejudice.

There are two papers exclusively about methods of research. One is a joint work by Max Lacroix and Edith Adams, of the Population Division of the United Nations, in which they draw attention to the nature and diversity of the statistics available for the study of assimilation, and to the large variety of indices of assimilation which might conceivably be constructed from them. This paper is not intended for the entertainment of the general public ; it is a guide to research workers who are looking for raw material. Here they will find, in neat tabular form, a survey of the types of classification employed by fifty-one countries in their censuses. M. Bunle, formerly director of the Statistique Général de la France, provides a programme of inquiry, including a set of thirty-seven questions for use by those who interview immigrants. Of fuller interest are those papers in which the value of methods is made plain by the result obtained from them.

There are several studies of countries where the immigrants form a larger proportion of the population than has been experienced in Britain since the Norman Conquest : Georges Mauco writes about France ; F. Savorgnan about Boston and Buenos Aires ; Georgio Mortara about Brazil ; Julius Isaac about Western Germany ; and Roberto Bachi about Israel. In the two last-named countries immigration has recently been one of